

LEARNING TOGETHER ABOUT TEACHING PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS

Purpose	Preschool administrators, coaches and teachers can use this tool to guide a training session to reflect on current practices in teaching phonological awareness.
Materials	<i>Using a Phonological Awareness Development Continuum</i> , sample material
Media	<i>Teaching Phonological Awareness in Preschool</i> , multimedia overview describing the importance of phonological awareness instruction that includes scaffolded instruction and support for teachers. (7:57 min) <i>Providing Phonological Awareness Instruction</i> , expert interview with Dr. Susan Landry in which she describes the developmental continuum. (6:18)
Topic	Preschool Language and Literacy
Practice	Teach Phonological Awareness

Learning Together About Teaching Phonological Awareness

Set up a training session for preschool administrative, coaching, and teaching staff.

Begin by viewing the multimedia overview and the short interview with expert Susan Landry discussing phonological awareness instruction. Hand out copies of the artifact, *Using a Phonological Awareness Developmental Continuum*.

Use following questions to guide discussion of the media pieces and sample material as they relate to your current practices in teaching phonological awareness.

1. Using a Developmental Continuum: Clarify the team's understanding of teaching along a skill continuum of the stages of phonological awareness.
 - What knowledge base or framework do you use to guide lesson planning and individualized instruction?
 - Do you begin with sound manipulation before moving on to sound-letter relationships in print?
 - How do you identify the different skill levels of your children, monitor progress, and determine what individual children and the whole class are ready to learn next?
 - Do you group children for instruction based on skill levels? How often do you assess skill mastery and re-group children?
 - If you don't have a developmental continuum framework or want to improve your instructional planning and approach, you can get some ideas from the related media and sample materials in the *See How It Works* section of the website.
2. Coaching Teachers: The multimedia overview highlights the importance of providing on-site and ongoing coaching support to teachers.
 - How do you help teachers learn a new practice or improve current instruction?
 - What type of teacher supports do you offer on- or off-site?
 - Reflect on the role of your coaches and professional development providers.
 - Do coaches model instruction in the classroom?
 - Are teachers given opportunities to practice what they have learned?
 - How often are teacher observations conducted?
 - Do you provide feedback to help teachers internalize new knowledge, plan lessons, and implement teaching strategies?
 - If you don't provide coaching or want to improve your coaching program, the related media and sample materials can help you.